

From: Charles Wheelus
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:51pm
Subject: Proposed Settlement is Unjust

To Whom it may concern:

I feel strongly that the proposed settlement is very unfair to all consumers of PC software and hardware. As a computer and Internet professional, I deal with Microsoft products on a daily basis. Unfortunately, Microsoft has gained a position that makes it nearly impossible for any company to compete with them on a level playing field.

This situation is not much unlike the "old" AT&T before they were broken up many years ago. Innovation was stifled. While there are many viable alternative operating systems available, none of them run software which was developed for Microsoft natively. This requires a software vendor to make 2 or more versions if they choose to support any other operating system costly.

This is really only a problem in the "consumer" or desktop market (retail market). This would be like one retailer (Sears, Walmart, etc.) locking up the entire retail market and controlling the flow of goods to the consumer.

Obviously this would not be good for the consumer.

I do not advocate the break up of Microsoft. Instead I believe the only real solution to this problem is to force Microsoft to release it's API (application interface) into the public domain. This would enable other companies (Sun, Apple, etc.) and operating systems (Linux) to build a API which could run Windows Applications natively on other operating systems.

I applaud and support the ongoing state and federal effort to re-introduce a truly competitive environment into the Personal Computer market.

Sincerely,

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